WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER MAY 2026

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERT)

Many areas have had to fend for themselves during and after a disaster, at least for a while. During hurricanes Katreina and Helene a number of communities did not receive help from outside for days; if not weeks. With a little training and a little planning these communities would have been better prepaired to take care of themselves and help their neighbors. ARES members have some of this training. Community Emergency Response Teams are another Volunteer Organizatioin Active in Disasters (VOAD) that has similar training.

FEMA has recognized the usefulness of Community Emergency Response Teams for years. *IS-317A: Introduction to CERT* is one of FEMA's free online courses suitable for anyone interested in learning about CERT. IS 317A consists of three lessons:

1. The origin of the national CERT movement, its purpose and examples of CERT organizatioins from around the country.
2. The roles and responsibilities of CERT programs and members, how they fit into the Incident Command System (ICS) and formal emergency response organizations., and
3. The training required to be a CERT volunteer, the benefits of volunteering and how to effectively serve your community before, during and after a disaster.

IS 315A: CERT and the ICS introduces CERT leaders to the Incident Command System (ICS), used by emergency managers across the country. These independent study courses are prerequisitess for an in-classroom course on setting up a local CERT organization.

In addition to FEMAs training, the National CERT Association (NCA), provides an abundance of online resourse material for those interested. The NCA was organized in 2018 to support communication and resource sharing across the CERT community. Some NCA materials available online include:

- Participant manuals. Instructor Guides, PowerPoint Slides,
- Teen CERT and Campus CERT materials.
- Workplace CERT. and
- A number of advanced training materials in such fields as Emergency Communications, Animal Response, Flood Response, Traffic and Crowd support, and Exercises.

Whether you join a formal CERT team or simply want to learn more about volunteering in disasters, these classes should benefit you as an ARES member and as a private individual. As Extra Dan rold Technician Bob. “You are never too old to learn, unless you're just a dummy!”

Technician Bob keeps telling Extra Dan that digital modes are nothing more than texting over the radio.

Extra Dan thinks his dummy load listens better thanTechnician Bob.

SLEEP IS TEMPORARY. DX IS FOREVER!

JOIN THE
WEST VIRGINIA
QSO PARTY
WEST VIRGINIA STATE
AMATEUR RADIO COUNCIL
JUNE 20, 2026
12 NOON - MIDNIGHT
Amateur radio operators – get ready for our annual contest! Celebrate West Virginia's birthday on the airwaves and make as many contacts as you can!
https://www.qsl.net/wvqp/

LCHS ARC

Hamfest

Location – 81 Lincoln Panther Way, Hamlin, WV, 25523 (Lincoln Co. High School)

Door Tickets - $5 a person. "Extra Tickets $2 a piece for extra chances.

Date – April 25 2026

Time – Doors open at 0730, Kick off at 0800, Ends 1300

Link In - TX – 146.865 RX – 146.265 PL Tone – 100.0 WV8LC Repeater & on VHF Simplex 146.520

Swap Meet – Tables $10 – Anything from Emergency Lights, lighting controllers, siren speakers and controller to radios including Amateur band (VHF, UHF, HF) and CB (Citizen Band) Radios. **Hourly Door Prizes.** If you plan on renting a table please email, text or call Corey Cheeks at the below.

If you have any questions, Please email or text Corey Cheeks(K8VFD) at: k8vfd.wv@gmail.com, Cell 681-340-0303 or LCHS ARC at: lchs.arc@gmail.com

Thank you, WV8LC - LCHS ARC

Follow us on Facebook at: LCHS ARC

SIGNAL STRENGTH AND READABILITY REPORT

A **signal strength and readability report** is a standardized format for reporting the subjective strength of a radio signal and the readability (quality) of the voice or CW (Constant Wave or Morse code) signal transmitted by one station as received at another station's location.

The following list (taken from ARRL's QST Magazine) describes the current definitions of “strength:”

1. Faint signals, barely perceptable.
2. Very weak signals.
3. Weak signals.
4. Fair signals.
5. Fairly good signals.
6. Good signals.
7. Moderately strong signals.
8. Strong signals.
9. Extremely strong signals.

NEW WRITER/PUBLISHER/ EDITOR FOR WV SPLATTER

As most of you know I'm stepping down from putting out WV SPLATTER. Patrick Clark, K8TAC, has agreed to take over beginning with the June 2026 issue. He is a much more experienced Ham than I, and I expect his content will reflect his knowledge and experience.

I hope you provide him support and encouragement in this endeavor.

73

Jim Hudson, KE8PNY, Clear